

## FAST FACTS

### **How NDMILE and Title I Schoolwide Programming Work Together**

#### **What is Title I Schoolwide?**

The *No Child Left Behind* Act sets ambitious goals for raising student achievement in reading and mathematics. These goals are the foundation for schoolwide programming—designing a school system where ALL students reach high academic standards. Schoolwide programs are built upon schoolwide reform strategies and have an advantage to use their federal funds to support schoolwide initiatives toward reaching that goal. In a schoolwide program, Title I funds should be used based on the results of ongoing data analysis at each school to an optimal school plan to raise academic achievement for ALL students at the school.

- In order for a school to operate as a schoolwide program, the law requires that a school have a poverty level of at least 40%. A minimum of one year of planning is required before schools are allowed to operate a Title I schoolwide program.
- During the planning year, all staff will participate in professional development and, ultimately, conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and develop a schoolwide plan.
- A schoolwide program is built upon schoolwide research based reform strategies. Title I schoolwide programs must implement and provide evidence of the ten required schoolwide components as described in the schoolwide plan.
- A schoolwide program must have a process of ongoing review and revise its plan as necessary, evaluating it at least annually to determine effectiveness.

#### **What is NDMILE?**

The NDMILE tool is a web-based system available to schools for use with Title I schoolwide/school improvement teams to inform, coach, sustain, track, and report improvement activities. It is structured to guide high-quality work by school teams with built-in flexibility to encourage local innovation. By using the NDMILE tool assists in building capacity to support improvement of schools while directly guiding a school's improvement activities. It also provides practical documentation through built-in mechanisms for reporting purposes. The tool allows school teams to collaborate on current school practices and research based indicators of effective practices. Wise Ways®, which are embedded in the system, provide a brief synthesis of corresponding research, examples, and resources. The bottom line is that the NDMILE tool will guide improvement teams through a continuous cycle of assessment, planning, implementation, and progress tracking.

#### **How Can NDMILE and Schoolwide Efforts be Coordinated?**

There are several core elements of schoolwide programs that directly align with the use of the NDMILE tool to meet schoolwide plan requirements. Besides schoolwide, other plan requirements can also be met using the NDMILE tool, such as the State Education Improvement Plan, Title I Schoolwide Plan, and Title I Program Improvement Plan. The benefits include:

1. **Plan: A comprehensive schoolwide plan** that describes research-based reform strategies aligned to the ten schoolwide program components. This requirement is met by using the NDMILE tool as a continuous process to assess, plan, and monitor school indicators, completion of the *Title I Schoolwide Supplemental Report*, and *SMART Goals*.

2. **Reports:** The requirements for schoolwide programs are met by using the NDMILE tool as a continuous process to assess, plan, and monitor school indicators, annual updates to the *Title I Schoolwide Supplemental Report*, and annual updates to the *SMART Goals*. Requirements met with using the NDMILE tool include:
- Assess and plan NDMILE *School Indicators* in the tool to promote effective practice and student learning to meet plan requirements.
    - For State Education Improvement, the school must always have 10 planned indicators.
    - For Title I schoolwide, the school must always have 15 planned indicators aligned to the crosswalk.
    - For Title I program improvement, the school must always have 20 planned indicators aligned to the crosswalk.
  - Document implementation of the required ten schoolwide components through the crosswalks.
  - Monitor the schoolwide plan by using the NDMILE tool as an ongoing, continuous school improvement process to review plan components, track progress, and document effectiveness.
  - The NDMILE tool allows schools to electronically submit required documents to satisfy federal and state requirements.
3. **Meeting Agendas and Minutes:** The NDMILE tool provides practical web-based documentation for creating agendas, recording minutes, assigning responsibilities, setting timelines, coaching, and monitoring the degree of implementation. The school must also annually evaluate the outcomes and the plan's implementation to determine whether the academic achievement of all students, particularly low achieving students, improved, whether the goals and objectives in the plan were achieved, and if the plan is still appropriate as written. This element can be documented using NDMILE meeting agenda and minutes.

### **Summary**

The NDMILE tool is a unique system accessible through the Department of Public Instruction website and aligned with the existing improvement initiatives. Using THE NDMILE TOOL is a local decision, not mandated; however, it is a high quality school improvement tool the department fully supports.

### **Contact Information**

If you have questions regarding this Fast Facts, please contact:

Division of Student Support & Innovation

Telephone: (888) 605-1951      Fax: (701) 328-0203